



Our Mission

To build a centralized, state-of-the-art campus, in partnership with our component districts, as recommended by a focus group of our superintendents, and founded on research-based design, where **500 K-12 students** of all abilities can thrive in a community that instills pride and belonging **by September 2027**.

Background:

Across Western New York, more students than ever require specialized, inclusive learning opportunities. Since 2019, Erie 1 BOCES has experienced a 33% increase in referrals for special education services, with the number of school districts referring students rising from 29 to 45 annually. This growth reflects a broader statewide trend, as New York State Education Department reports a 14% increase in students classified with special needs over the past decade.

Project Goals:

- Serve a greater number of students with highly specialized needs in the areas of social, emotional, and behavioral health with developmental disabilities, including autism.
- Consolidate three (3) K-12 schools into one (1) comprehensive campus.
- Serve more than 150 additional students for a total of approximately 500 students with unique needs.
- Retain 280 jobs.
- Create 50+ new positions, including: teachers, teacher aides, custodial, clerical, therapists, and more.
- Open in September 2027.



Instructional Services Expansion:
a place for learning, a place for growth, *a place for you.*

Find more information about the project and current updates at:

e1b.org/expansion

Financial Impact and Positive Opportunities for School Districts

Project Overview

The Erie 1 BOCES Instructional Services Expansion Project is designed to enhance educational opportunities for students of all abilities across our region. Through this initiative, Erie 1 BOCES is committed to providing modern, accessible facilities and fostering an environment where every student can thrive.

Financial Summary

- **Building Size:** 219,119 square feet
- **Lease Terms:** 20-year lease with Benderson Leasing Company
- **Renovation and Construction Costs:** Paid over 10 years
- **Rental Cost:** \$17.75 per square foot
- **Estimated Annual Construction Cost*:** \$37.71 per square foot
- **Total Construction Cost:** \$60 million (\$274 per square foot - estimated)
- **Total Annual Cost:** \$12,031,612
- **Total Annual Aid to Districts:** \$7,325,171
- **Net Cost to Districts (after aid):** \$4,706,441
- **Aid Timing:** Districts receive aid in the same year as expenses, and the BOCES rental budget is included in tax cap exclusions.

*Represents estimated annual construction cost in the lease for a 10-year period.

Tax Abatements and Savings

Erie 1 BOCES has been awarded substantial Erie County IDA tax abatements, resulting in over \$7.1 million in sales and property tax savings during the project's first 10 years. These abatements directly reduce expenses for participating districts, making this expansion even more financially advantageous.

Alternative Funding Efforts

Erie 1 BOCES is actively pursuing additional funding sources to further reduce district costs. These ongoing efforts aim to maximize savings and minimize the financial impact on school boards, ensuring responsible stewardship of resources.

Positive Impact and Fiscal Responsibility

This expansion will create enriched learning environments for students of all abilities, allowing districts to offer expanded services while maintaining fiscal responsibility. Erie 1 BOCES is dedicated to supporting districts and students, delivering value and fostering success for all.